MEMO

To: Paul Cubeta

cc: President Robison
John Spencer
Dave Ginevan
George Whitney

From: Arnold McKinney
Associate Dean of Students

Date: 12/23/76

Re: Adirondack House

Erica mentioned that you were concerned about the use of Adirondack House. I would like to make my position on its use clear so that problems will not arise from lack of communication or misunderstanding.

When the House was first assigned to the Black Student Union adequate provisions for the use and maintenance of the building were not established. The "College" decided that the upkeep of the building would be charged to the BSU which gets its money from student activities fees. Of course the College does not really control these fees so it has been very difficult to get money from this source. The Student Forum, who does control the allocation of the fee, feels that the support for the building should come from the College. This merry-go-around went on for some time. Last year arrangements were made by the College with BSU to make certain renovations of the building. Finally someone had agreed to foot the bill.

The students and I met with President Robison to discuss the use of the building. The President agreed to some of the changes that were suggested and made a few suggestions about the use of the building to which the students agreed. The following arrangements have been worked out and to the best of my recollection, agreed upon by the BSU and the College:

1. The BSU would continue to be responsible for the use of the building.

2. The Lounge on the first floor is to be divided into two spaces. One space is to be used for lecture classes (50-75 seats). The other space is to be a combination lounge-seminar room to be scheduled only through the BSU. (A floor plan is attached.)

3. There are two rooms upstairs which should be converted to faculty office space. This was discussed at length with Dennis O'Brien. The BSU would like to have some input into the decision about which faculty is to be placed there. There are several faculty offices already on the second floor, but they are separate from the Cultural Center by a partition which should be removed.

George Whitney has met with the students to discuss the furniture for the lounge and renovations of the area. Hank Clook and I have discussed the changes necessary for the second floor lavatory. Some of the changes in the building are quite substantial (the floor in the lounge needs major work), but the building could be put to great use as a combination cultural center and classroom/office space.

The building has been underutilized because the College has not made the necessary changes to the building. After several years of going around in circles about who was responsible for the building, BSU is now in the position of being told every few weeks that the changes are " in the works" but that other matters (i.e. the Deanery, Old Chapel offices, Forest Hall, Library) have a higher priority. I am not sure who determines priorities on campus, but obviously the Cultural Center has not been a priority in the recent past.

I recommend that a serious attempt be made to make the building work in accordance with the plans which have been agreed upon by the BSU and the College before any discussion about different use of the building is held.

AMcK:h